



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Whereas, the citizens of the Empire State value the health of their families and fellow New Yorkers, and are understanding of the critical role that prescriptive medications have had in progressing the study of medicine and in advancing the course of humankind; and

Whereas, for the last fifty years, antibiotics have been powerfully effective medicines which have routinely been able to cure serious bacterial infections in people of all ages; and

Whereas, at the present time, antibiotic use and overuse in the treatment of bacterial infections – as well as its misuse for viral infections – have led to an increase in the incidence of drug resistant bacteria, compromising the ability of the health care industry to respond effectively to the needs of patients with antibiotic resistant infections; and

Whereas, many New York State residents are not aware that the improper use of antibiotics, taking an incomplete course of a prescription, and sharing or administering leftover antibiotics contribute to resistant bacteria which can infect other people; and

Whereas, prevention of infections through careful hand-washing and immunizations are of paramount importance to reducing the development and spread of antibiotic resistant illness among patients; and

Whereas, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New York State Department of Health, the Save Antibiotic Strength New York project of the New York Health Plan Association, and the Council of Affordable Quality Healthcare, are devoting resources to enhance public awareness regarding the appropriate use of antibiotics; and

Whereas, through professional and public education endeavors, this collaborative effort among government agencies and health care organizations seeks to increase awareness about the overuse and misuse of antibiotics, and ways to prevent the increase and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria; and

Whereas, it is fitting to support the goals of this observance of Antibiotic Resistance Awareness Week to increase public awareness of this important public health issue and to encourage the safe, proper, and wise use of all prescribed medications by all New Yorkers;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize October 11 - 17, 2004 as

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "G. E. Pataki".

Governor
October 5, 2004